

In the Claims:

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1. [Amended] An image forming device comprising:
an image engine configured to form hard images;
an environmental sensor configured to monitor at least one environmental condition proximate to the image forming device and to provide data indicative of the at least one environmental condition; ~~and~~
an interface configured to communicate the data indicative of the at least one environmental condition externally of the image forming device;
a memory; and
processing circuitry configured to control storage of the data using the memory to provide a history of the environmental conditions to which the image forming device has been exposed.

2. [Original] The device of claim 1 wherein the image engine is configured to use a consumable to form the hard images, and the interface comprises a memory of the consumable.

3. [Original] The device of claim 1 wherein the interface comprises a communications interface adapted to communicate with devices external of the image forming device.

4. [Original] The device of claim 1 further comprising processing circuitry configured as an embedded web server and configured to communicate the data with respect to a client device external of the image forming device.

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6. [Amended] The device of claim ~~5~~ 1 wherein the processing circuitry is configured to control the storage of the data at a predetermined moment in time.

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1 7. [Amended] The device of claim 5 1 wherein the processing
2 circuitry is configured to monitor the data and to control the storage of the data
3 responsive to the monitoring.

1 8. [Original] The device of claim 1 further comprising an internal
2 power source configured to provide power to the sensor in an absence of power
3 from a source external of the image forming device.

1 9. [Original] The device of claim 1 wherein the environmental sensor
2 is configured to monitor the at least one environmental condition comprising a
3 plurality of environmental conditions proximate to the image forming device and
4 comprising humidity and temperature.

1 10. [Original] The device of claim 1 wherein the image engine
2 comprises a print engine of the image forming device embodied as a printer.

1 11. [Amended] A method of operating an image forming device, the
2 method comprising:

3 providing an image forming device configured to form hard images;
4 sensing at least one environmental condition of an environment proximate
5 to the image forming device; and

6 communicating data regarding the at least one environmental condition
7 externally of the image forming device; and

8 receiving a request within the image forming device from a source
9 external of the image forming device, and the communicating comprises
10 communicating responsive to the receiving.

1 12. [Original] The method of claim 11 wherein the providing comprises
2 providing the image forming device configured to use a consumable to form hard
3 images, and the communicating comprises storing the data regarding the at least
4 one environmental condition using the consumable.

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1 14. [Original] The method of claim 11 wherein the sensing comprises
2 sensing a plurality of environmental conditions comprising temperature and
3 humidity.

1 15. [Original] The method of claim 11 wherein the providing comprises
2 providing the image forming device embodied as a printer.

1 16. [Amended] A method of monitoring an environment proximate to
2 an image forming device configured to form hard images, the method
3 comprising:

4 providing an image forming device configured to form hard images and to
5 monitor at least one environmental condition proximate to the image forming
6 device and to communicate data regarding the at least one environmental
7 condition externally of the image forming device; and

8 receiving the data regarding the at least one environmental condition from
9 the image forming device; and

10 analyzing the data regarding the at least one environmental condition after
11 the receiving to determine a quantitative parameter for the at least one
12 environmental condition for testing other image forming devices.

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1 18. [Original] The method of claim 16 further comprising
2 communicating a request to the image forming device, and wherein the
3 communicating the data is responsive to the communicating the request.

1 19. [Original] The method of claim 16 wherein the providing comprises
2 providing the image forming device configured to use a consumable, and
3 wherein the receiving the data comprises extracting the data from the
4 consumable.

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20. [Original] The method of claim 16 wherein the providing comprises providing the image forming device configured to monitor the at least one environmental condition comprising a plurality of environmental conditions comprising temperature and humidity.

21. [New] An image forming device comprising:
an image engine configured to form hard images;
an environmental sensor configured to monitor at least one environmental condition proximate to the image forming device and to provide data indicative of the at least one environmental condition;
an interface configured to communicate the data indicative of the at least one environmental condition externally of the image forming device; and
an internal power source configured to provide power to the sensor in an absence of power from a source external of the image forming device.

22. [New] An image forming device comprising:
an image engine configured to form hard images;
an environmental sensor configured to monitor at least one environmental condition comprising humidity proximate to the image forming device and to provide data indicative of the at least one environmental condition; and
an interface configured to communicate the data indicative of the at least one environmental condition externally of the image forming device.

23. [New] An image forming device comprising:
an image engine configured to form hard images;
an environmental sensor configured to monitor at least one environmental condition proximate to the image forming device and to provide data indicative of the at least one environmental condition;
an interface configured to communicate the data indicative of the at least one environmental condition externally of the image forming device; and
wherein the image engine is configured to use a consumable to form the hard images, and the interface comprises a memory of the consumable.

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